

## ABSTRACT

A die cutting system that includes a press and a substantially planar die with a plate and at least one cutting edge protruding from a surface of the plate. The press is manually operated and may be hand-held or supported upon a flat surface, such as a tabletop. A first member of the press receives the substantially planar die, while a second member of the press provides support for a sheet of material from which the die will cut a pattern upon biasing the die against the sheet of material. Manually operated presses and die cutting methods that employ teachings of the invention are also disclosed.

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